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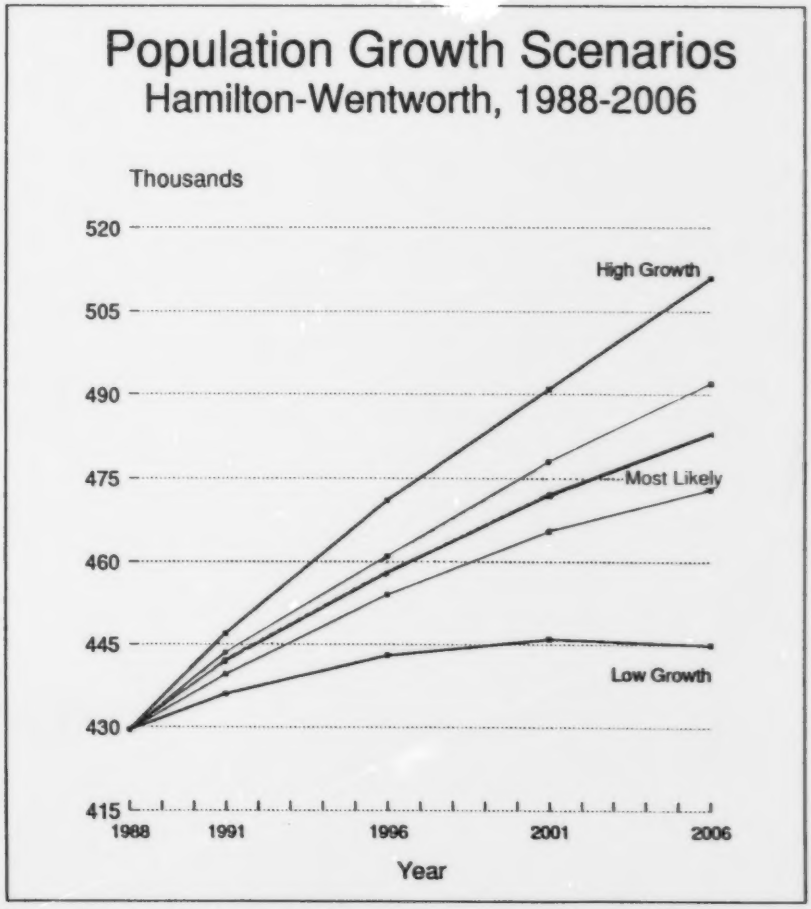
Greater Hamilton
Population Trends & Projections
Demographics Report 89-1

Hamilton-Wentworth Region . Planning and Development Department . Strategic Planning Division

Introduction

The publication Hamilton-Wentworth Population Projections, 1988 - 2006 was recently prepared by the Planning and Development Department . It contains age-specific population and household projections for Hamilton-Wentworth and the Area Municipalities. Such information is necessary to assist in infrastructure and service planning.

This bulletin summarizes the trends and projections contained in the larger document.



Note: The most likely range (shaded) recognizes the greater accuracy of forecasts early in the projection period.

Highlights...

- Hamilton-Wentworth's population is forecast to increase to approximately 483,000 (12.5%) by 2006, based on recent trends and opportunities.
- The 2006 population may be as high as 511,000, if rates of fertility and migration increase.
- Net migration to Hamilton-Wentworth was about 900 persons/year between 1985 and 1988. Migration should remain positive, partly due to infrastructure and quality of life improvements and to housing demands in the greater Toronto area.
- International migration is expected to be responsible for almost 60% of future growth. Specialized educational, cultural and other services will be required to accommodate a growing immigrant population.
- The size of the 40-64 year age group is forecast to grow 44% as "baby boomers" age. The 65+ age group will also expand more than twice as fast as the population. Heightened demand for appropriate health, leisure and other services is expected as a result.
- The number of 0-14 year olds is projected to increase 6% by 1996, then decline to existing levels. Demand for children's services may decline after 1996 in older urban areas.
- The number of households is projected to increase from 161,100 to 193,500, with 87% of household growth forecast to occur in the suburban municipalities of Stoney Creek, Ancaster and Flamborough, and on Hamilton mountain.
- The municipalities forecast to experience the largest population increases are: Ancaster (81%), Stoney Creek (43%), and Flamborough (39%).

1.0 Growth

Hamilton-Wentworth's population was 434,000 in 1988, an increase of 32,000 persons (8 %) since the Region was formed in 1974. Approximately 75 % of this growth has taken place since 1980.

The Region's average annual growth has rebounded from the low levels of the late 1970s to 1.0% in the last three years.

1.1 Projected Growth

Regional Council recently adopted a set of population projections, based on anticipated fertility and mortality rates and migration trends. In these projections, the population is forecast to increase to 483,000 in 2006 under the "most likely" scenario. This figure is within a most likely population range of 473,000 to 492,000 persons.

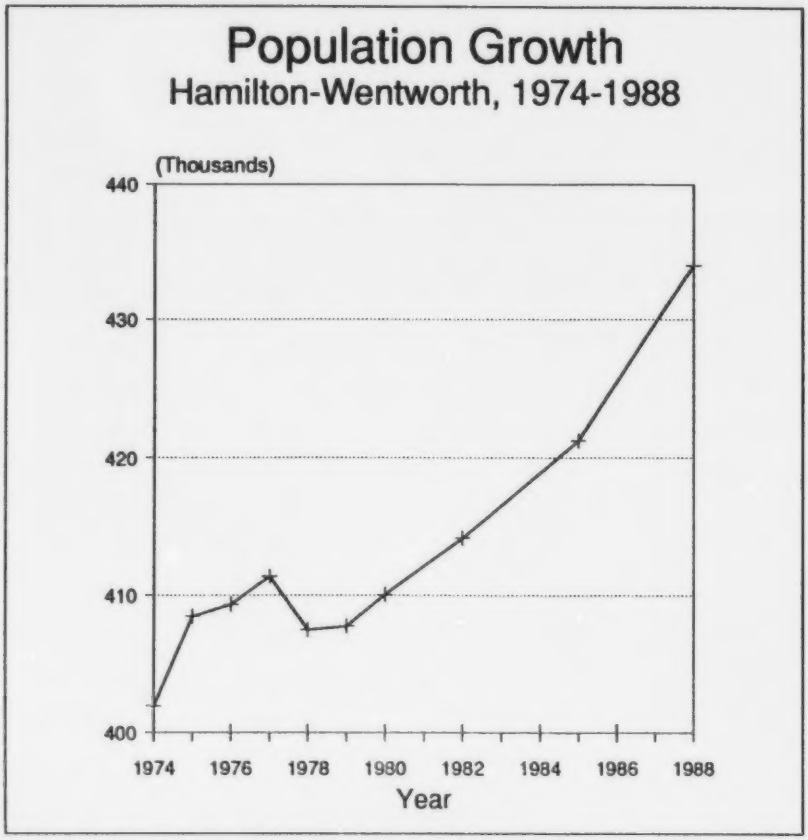
The average growth projected in the most likely scenario is 3,000 persons/year between 1988 and 2006, 50% higher than the 2,000 persons/year experienced between 1975 and 1988.

In recognition of the uncertainty associated with projecting future trends, alternative scenarios were considered. The 2006 population in the high scenario is 511,000, based on conditions of high fertility and migration rates. The 2006 population in the low scenario is 445,000, based on conditions of low fertility and migration.

1.2 Comparative Growth

Hamilton-Wentworth has experienced a slower rate of growth than the Province as a whole since 1956. Growth has concentrated in the Regions immediately surrounding Toronto.

Ontario's population is forecast to grow 21% between 1988 and 2006. This is a larger increase than the increase forecast for the Region. However, Hamilton-Wentworth's rate of growth, compared to Ontario's, increases over the projection period, due to an improved competitive position relative to other Regions.



Source: Ontario Ministry of Revenue, Assessment Division

Average Annual Percent Growth, Actual and Projected Hamilton-Wentworth and Ontario, 1956-2006

		Hamilton-Wentworth	Ontario
ACTUAL	1956-1961	2.5	2.9
	1961-1966	1.3	2.2
	1966-1971	1.0	2.2
	1971-1976	0.4	1.4
	1976-1981	0.1	0.9
	1981-1986	0.6	1.1
PROJECTED	1986-1991	1.0	1.7
	1991-1996	0.7	1.2
	1996-2001	0.6	0.9
	2001-2006	0.5	0.8

Source: Ontario Ministry of Treasury and Economics and Hamilton-Wentworth Planning and Development Department.

2.0 Components of Growth

Population changes as a result of the rate of natural increase (births over deaths) and the level of net migrants. Natural increase was the predominant source of the Region's growth between 1951 and 1986. Migration has accounted for an estimated 25% of growth since 1986, due to high levels of Canadian immigration and increased migrants from other Regions in Ontario.

2.1 Natural Increase

The rate of natural increase in Hamilton-Wentworth has declined from 6,000 persons/year at the peak of the baby boom in 1957 to 3,000 persons/year at present.

Fertility rates have been below the replacement level since 1975, and are expected to remain low due to: participation of women in the labour force; costs of raising children; preferences for small families; and, increasing divorce rates.

Although the fertility rate has been relatively stable since 1977, the number of births increased as the baby boom reached childbearing age. The number of children aged 0-4 in Hamilton-Wentworth is projected to increase from 27,000 in 1988 to 29,000 in 1996 before declining to 25,000 in 2006, as the baby boom completes its reproductive cycle.

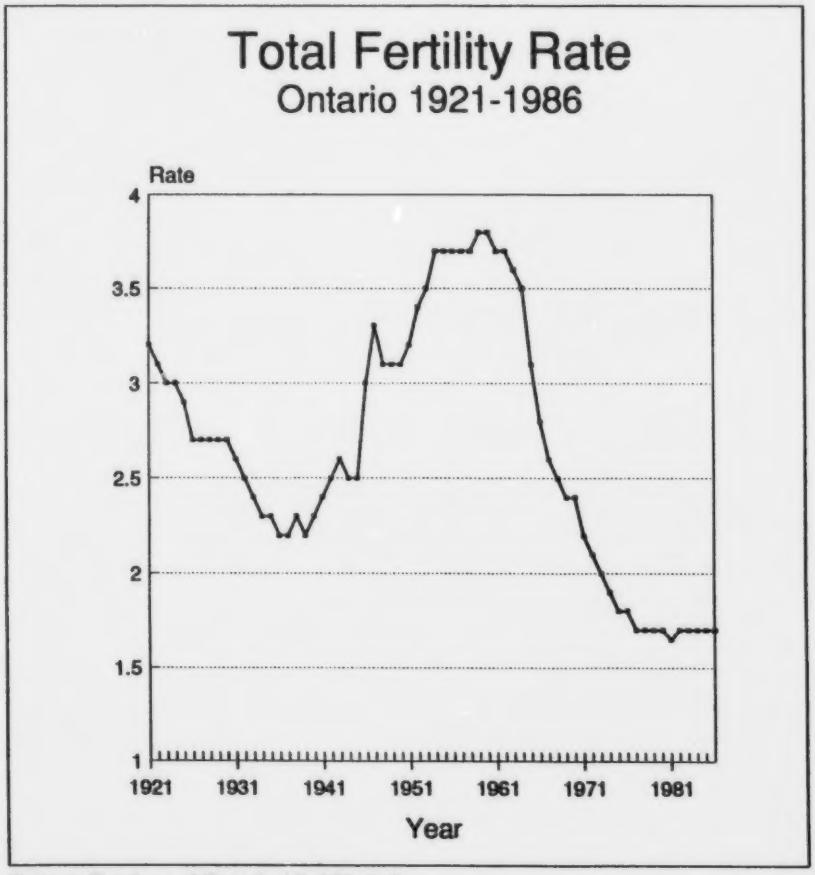
2.2 Migration

Hamilton-Wentworth experienced net migration of approximately 900 persons/year between 1986 and 1988, an improvement from the migration losses of the 1970s. Migration is projected to remain positive due to federal policy supportive of high levels of international migration, and to the increased attractiveness of Hamilton-Wentworth as a destination for migrants from other Regions. Migration to Hamilton-Wentworth will be influenced by planned quality of life and infrastructure improvements, and by rising housing costs in the Toronto area.

Components of Growth
Hamilton-Wentworth, 1951-1988

	Ave. Annual Net Natural Increase	Ave. Annual Net Migration	Total
1951-56	5,463	4,568	10,031
1956-61	5,920	2,600	8,520
1961-66	5,194	-326	4,868
1966-71	3,753	-11	3,742
1971-76	2,736	-1,214	1,522
1976-81	2,290	-1,899	391
1981-86	2,515	-125	2,390
1985-88 (Est)	2,600	900	3,500

Source: Statistics Canada, Census and Ministry of Revenue, Assessment Division and Province of Ontario, Vital Statistics



Source: Province of Ontario, Vital Statistics

3.0 Age Distribution

The age structure of the population affects the nature of goods and services demanded.

The age structure of the population will change over the next 18 years. The proportion of children is projected to decrease after 1996 as the baby boom moves out of the childbearing years. The aging of the baby boom will result in a smaller proportion of the population in the 20 to 39 year age group and a larger percentage of 40 to 59 year olds. The proportion of seniors should increase due to enhanced life expectancies.

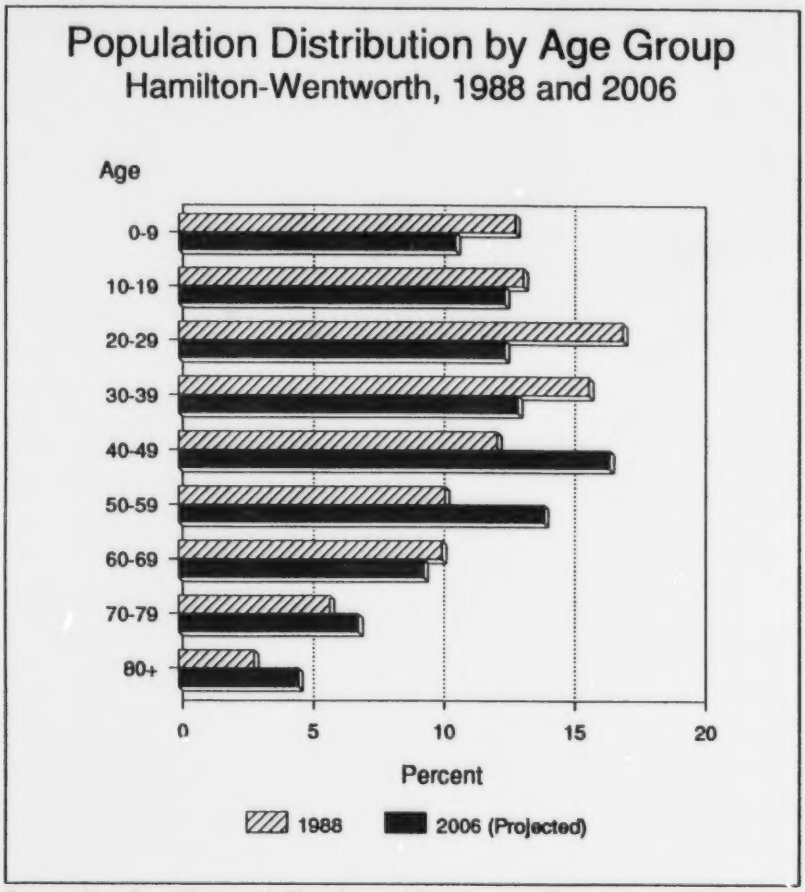
3.1 Children (0-14 years)

The number of children is projected to increase from 83,000 to 88,000, or 6%, between 1988 and 1996. This increase, which occurs because the bulk of the baby boom generation is in the reproductive years, is commonly referred to as the "baby boom echo." The baby boom echo is of a smaller magnitude than the baby boom, because of current low fertility rates.

After 1996, the number of children is projected to decline to approximately existing levels.

The size of the 0-14 age group (cohort) is sensitive to fertility changes. If the fertility rate increased from 1.7 to 2.0, the projected population of children would be 90,000 in 2006. The projected population of children would be 76,000 in 2006 if the fertility rate declined to 1.4, the present level in Quebec.

The change in the number of 0-14 year olds will require careful policy responses. Demand for youth services will increase to 1996 then fall significantly in some municipalities. It might be prudent to consider designing facilities which are required to meet the demands of the baby boom echo for an alternative future use (e.g. an educational facility may later be used for retraining of older workers). Consideration of alternative uses may also influence the location of new buildings.



Source: Hamilton-Wentworth Planning and Development Department and Ontario Ministry of Revenue

Projected Population Growth by Age Cohort
Hamilton-Wentworth, 1988-2006

	1988	1996	2006	% Change 1988-2006
0-14	82,910	87,900	83,000	0
15-24	64,391	57,700	61,900	-4
25-39	105,721	107,600	92,500	-13
40-64	119,175	136,200	171,700	44
65+	57,270	68,600	73,900	29
TOTAL	429,467	458,000	483,000	12

Source: Hamilton-Wentworth Planning and Development Department and Ontario Ministry of Revenue.

3.2 Adults

The population aged 15-64 is projected to increase from 289,000 to 326,000, or 13%, between 1988 and 2006. The median age of this population, generally considered to be the population from which the labour force is drawn, is expected to increase from 34 in 1988 to 41 in 2006.

The number of persons 15-24 years of age is projected to decline by approximately 10% between 1988 and 1996. Individuals of this age are an important source of new labour market entrants. As potential entrants from this source decline, it is likely that demands for sustained high levels of international migration will continue, in order to maintain recent rates of labour force growth. After 1996, the number of 15-24 year olds begins to increase due to the impact of the baby boom echo.

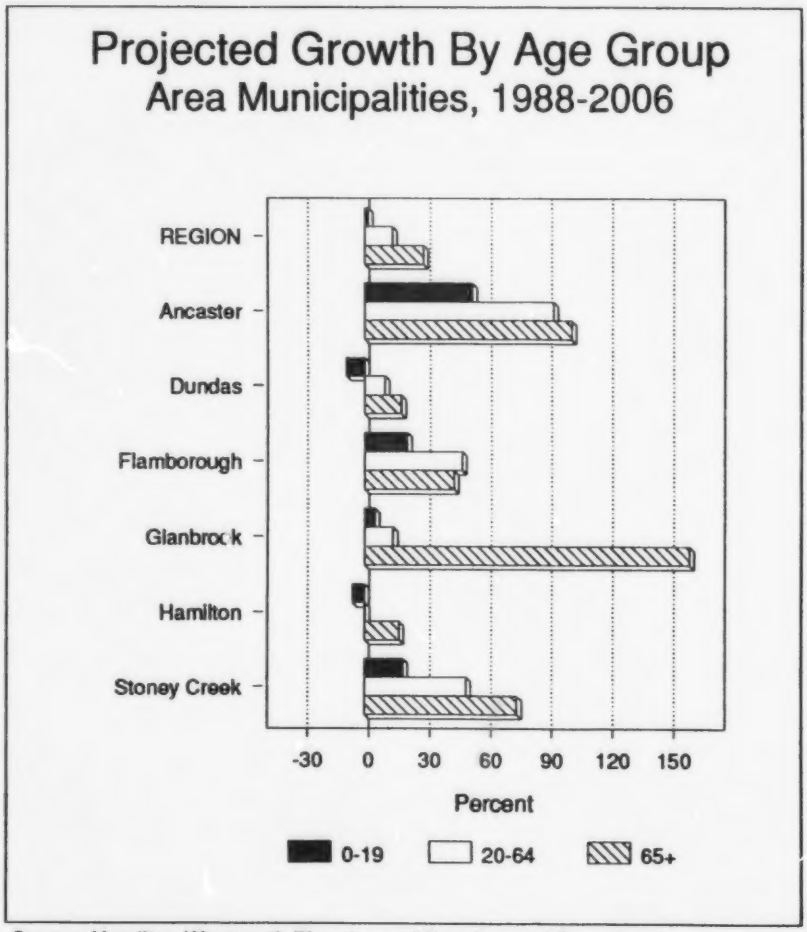
The number of young adults (25-39 years of age) is projected to decline by 13% between 1988 and 2006, as the baby boom is replaced by the smaller cohort of individuals following them. The result will be fewer young families, renters and first time home buyers, and young, mobile adults in the population.

The projected growth of 44% in the number of 40-64 year olds will impact upon demands for particular leisure, health, education and social services with the same force as this baby boom generation impacted upon the housing market in the 1980s. An increased emphasis upon retraining older workers will be required, as the number of 40-64 year olds in the population of labour force age is projected to rise from 41% in 1988 to 53% in 2006.

3.3 Seniors

The population over 64 years of age is projected to increase by 29% between 1988 and 2006. The size of this group relative to the total population will increase from 13 % to 15%. The most elderly cohort (80+) will grow fastest, from 12,000 to 21,000, or 73 %.

Growth in the elderly cohort will increase demand for services such as transit passes, health care, and accessible housing. In particular, the increase in the number of very elderly will require both more capacity in institutions providing long term care, and additional services for assisting the elderly in remaining independent for extended periods.



Source: Hamilton-Wentworth Planning and Development Department

4.0 Households

The number of households in Hamilton-Wentworth increased from 136,100 in 1976 to 155,600 in 1986 (14%). Household growth has been more rapid than population growth due to declines in average household size, from 3.0 persons in 1976 to 2.7 persons in 1986.

Factors which have contributed to declines in household size include:

- changing attitudes to the traditional family unit;
- opportunities created by an increasingly affluent population;
- low fertility rates;
- increasing divorce rates;
- dramatic growth in the number of persons living alone; and,
- growth in the number of individuals starting first households (25-34 year age group).

Population and Household Growth
Hamilton-Wentworth, 1976-86

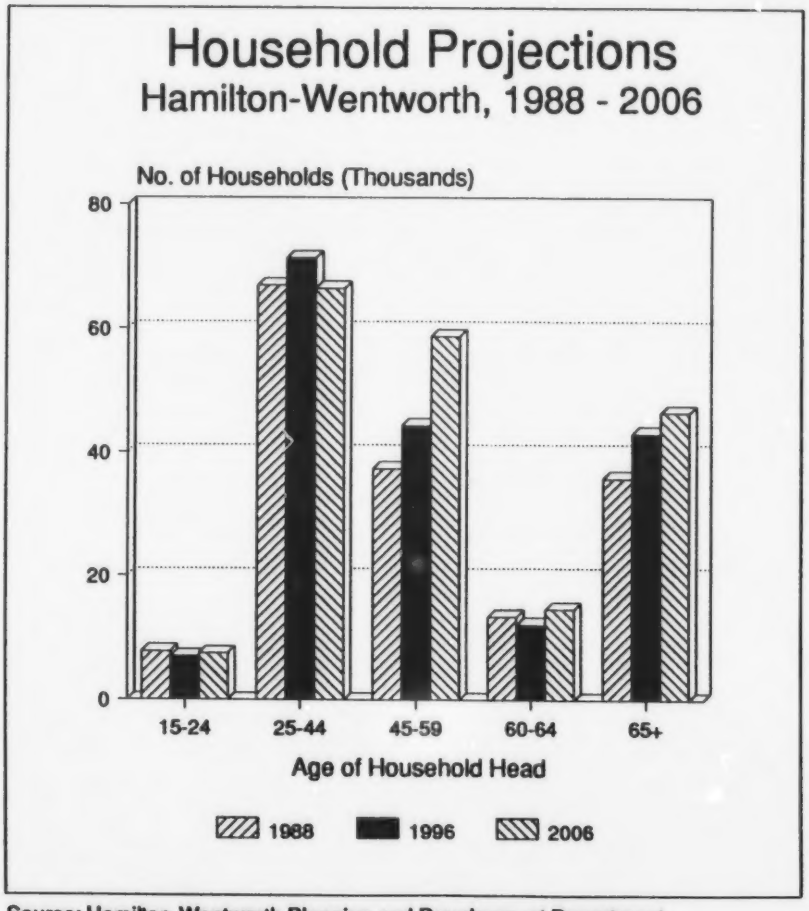
	Households	Population
1976	136,100	409,500
1981	147,200	411,400
% Average Annual Growth, 1976-1981	1.4	0.1
1986	155,600	423,400
% Average Annual Growth, 1981-1986	1.1	0.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Census

4.1 Projected Growth

The number of households in Hamilton-Wentworth is projected to increase from 161,100 in 1988 to 193,500 in 2006 (20%). This increase will result from a projected 13 % growth in the population, and a projected decrease in average household size, from 2.7 persons to 2.5 persons.

Household growth is expected to be most rapid amongst households headed by individuals 45-59 years of age, and by the elderly. There will be additional demands for types of housing suitable to the means and needs of these groups.



Source: Hamilton-Wentworth Planning and Development Department

5.0 Area Municipalities

Growth patterns have varied among Area Municipalities in the Region. Between 1985 and 1988 Ancaster, Stoney Creek and Flamborough grew most rapidly, with growth of 23%, 9%, and 8%, respectively. The mountain area in the City of Hamilton also experienced rapid growth of 7%. Most municipalities grew faster between 1985 and 1988 than during the early 1980s.

5.1 Projected Growth

The suburban municipalities are expected to continue to grow most rapidly. Between 1988 and 2006, Ancaster is projected to increase by 81%, Stoney Creek by 43%, and Flamborough by 39%.

The older urban areas, Hamilton and Dundas, are forecast to experience minor growth. However, even net growth of 3,000 persons in Hamilton should result in a net increase of 10,000 households because of changing age structure and household size.

5.2 Age Specific Growth

The age structure of the population is projected to change in each of the area municipalities.

The number of children aged 0-19 is projected to decrease in Dundas and Hamilton, and increase in Flamborough, Stoney Creek and Ancaster. The population aged 20-64 will likely increase most in the suburban municipalities. The proportion of seniors will rise significantly in all municipalities, with the largest percentage growth forecast for Glanbrook in recognition of the planned development of two retirement communities.

6.0 Conclusion

Change in the size and composition of the population affects demand for residential land, infrastructure and housing, and for leisure, health, transit, and other services. Projections contained in this bulletin provide a basis for planning for future growth.

Population Change
Area Municipalities, 1985-1988

	1985	1988	Change	% Chg.
Ancaster	16,542	20,404	3,862	23.3
Dundas	20,081	20,950	869	4.3
Flamborough	25,541	27,688	2,147	8.4
Glanbrook	9,446	9,494	48	0.5
Hamilton	306,090	309,679	3,589	1.2
Stoney Creek	41,964	45,908	3,944	9.4

Source: Ontario Ministry of Revenue, Assessment Division.

Note: Population figures for the City of Hamilton do not include an undercount of approximately 1,600 students from McMaster University.

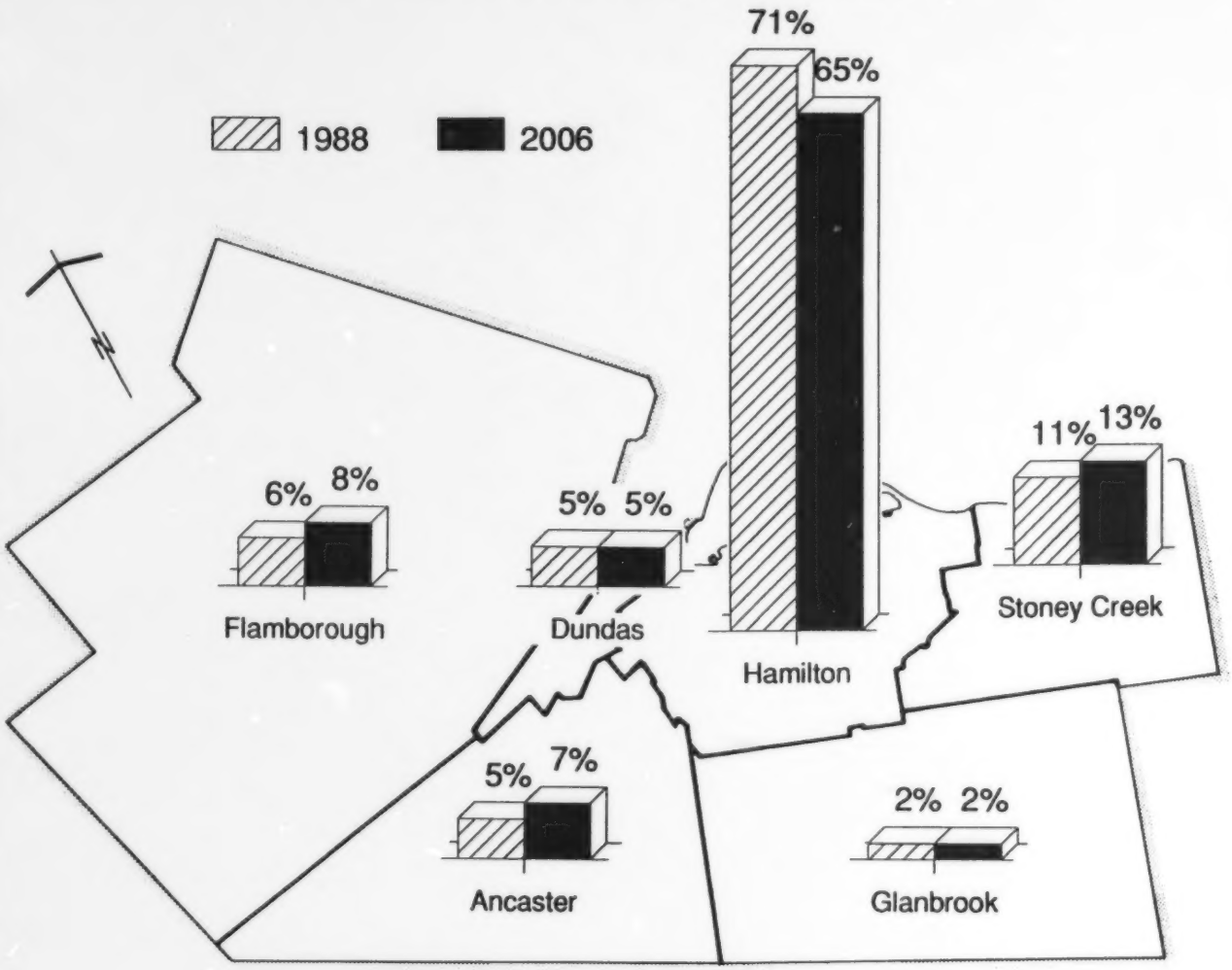
Population Projections
Area Municipalities, 1988-2006

	Base Population (May, 1988)[1]	Low	Most Likely[2]	High
Ancaster	19,700	27,800	35,800	39,200
Dundas	20,600	20,500	22,000	23,400
Flamborough	27,100	33,400	37,700	44,300
Glanbrook	9,500	10,400	11,800	12,800
Hamilton	307,200	300,800	310,700	315,000
Stoney Creek	45,300	59,000	64,600	67,800

(1) The population projections contained in the document Hamilton-Wentworth Population Projections, 1988-2006 were based on the enumeration of May, 1988, the most recent data available at the time of production. The Regional population during that assessment was 429,500. The year-end population for 1988 was 434,000.

(2) There is greater uncertainty associated with population projections at the Area Municipal level than for larger areas, as a result of the numerous factors which impact development patterns. These factors include: characteristics of new development, neighbourhood capacity and household size, availability and location of serviced land, image, and momentum.

Actual and Projected Distribution of Population by Area Municipality
Hamilton-Wentworth, 1988 and 2006



This is one in a series of information bulletins produced by the Regional Planning Branch of the Planning and Development Department, Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth.

Other Bulletins currently available:

- Greater Hamilton Population (Report 87-1)
- Greater Hamilton Labour Force (Report 87-2)
- Greater Hamilton Construction Trends (Report 87-3)
- Greater Hamilton Industrial Development (Report 87-4)
- Greater Hamilton Large Office Inventory (Report 88-1)
- Greater Hamilton Regional Centre (Report 88-2)

For further information, please contact Julie Bergshoeff at 526-4348.

Note: More detail on population trends and projections is available in the document Hamilton-Wentworth Population Projections, 1988-2006.